

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 555

17 DEC -4 11:39

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED OUTBREAK OF RICE BLACK BUGS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING MEASURES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO AFFECTED FARMERS AND HELP THE WHOLE AGRICULTURE SECTOR ADDRESS THE PROBLEM

WHEREAS, according to various news reports, Rice Black Bugs (RBBs) locally known as "*itim na atangya*" wrought havoc in a number of rice farms in the province of Pangasinan;

WHEREAS, RBBs are sap-feeding insects known to suck the plant sap through the stems and nodes near the water surface;¹

WHEREAS, RBBs attack rice plants at almost all of its stages of growth and could spread to alternate hosts such as corn and weeds;

WHEREAS, the outbreak was allegedly first observed in the municipality of Asingan, Umingan, San Manuel, and Binalonan and quickly spread to rice farms in the towns of Unzad, Baraca, Tombod, and Villasis;

WHEREAS, attacks of 10 to 15 adult RBBs per hill can reportedly cause losses of up to 23 percent;²

WHEREAS, in Villasis alone, RBBs already destroyed some 50 hectares of rice lands tilled by around 100 farmers;³

WHEREAS, the whole province of Pangasinan reportedly suffered from around 70 percent reduction of harvests;⁴

¹ Regional Field Office Department of Agriculture. (November 2017.) Rice Black Bug Alarms Farmers in Pangasinan. Retrieved from <http://ilocos.da.gov.ph/index.php/programs/rice/37-rice-black-bug-rbb-alarms-farmers-in-pangasinan>

² *Ibid.*

³ PTV News. (09 November 2017). Rice black bug wreaks havoc in Pangasinan farms. Retrieved from <https://www.ptvnews.ph/rice-black-bug-wreaks-havoc-pangasinan-farms/>

⁴ *Ibid.*

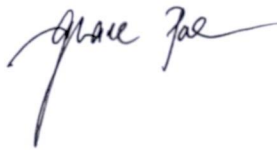
WHEREAS, reports claimed the usual harvest of farmers went down from 100 cavans to 30-70 cavans per hectare after the attack;⁵

WHEREAS, Pangasinan is one of the top rice producers in the country currently supplying 62 percent of rice in Region 1 alone;⁶

WHEREAS, the attack is a threat to the crucial role of Pangasinan towards the attainment of food security especially for 25 million poor Filipinos, for whom rice is a staple commodity and the single biggest specific item in their budget;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported outbreak of rice black bugs with the end in view of recommending measures to provide assistance to affected farmers and help the whole agriculture sector address the problem.

Adopted,



⁵ PTV News. (09 November 2017). Rice black bug wreaks havoc in Pangasinan farms. Retrieved from <https://www.ptvnews.ph/rice-black-bug-wreaks-havoc-pangasinan-farms/>

⁶ Province of Pangasinan. (May 27, 2017). Pangasinan bags Rice Achievers Award for the 4th time. Retrieved from <http://pangasinan.gov.ph/2017/05/pangasinan-bags-rice-achievers-award-for-the-4th-time/>